

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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S E C R E T QUITO 3085

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: OVIP, EC
SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: BIO ON WIVES OF KEY
GOE OFFICIALS

REF: STATE 104923

1. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON WIVES OF GOE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM MRS. CARTER IS LIKELY TO COME INTO CONTACT:

A. ALICIA ESTHER POVEDA (NEE PIZZINBONO). BORN IN ARGENTINA,
46 YEARS OLD. MET AND MARRIED ALFREDO POVEDA WHEN HE WAS A NAVAL
LIEUTENANT COMPLETING FOUR YEARS AT THE ARGENTINE NAVAL ACADEMY
IN 1950. COMES FROM A PROMINENT UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS BUENOS AIRES
FAMILY. SHE HAS BEEN REGARDED AS AN ASSET TO POVEDA'S CAREER
AND IT WAS REMARKED THAT HER WARMTH AND CHARM DURING HIS VARIOUS
TOURS IN GUAYAQUIL GAVE HIM AN ENTREE INTO GUAYAQUIL SOCIETY
WHICH HAS HELPED HIM SUBSEQUENTLY. (ONE OF THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS
WAS RECENTLY MARRIED TO THE SCION OF A WELL-KNOWN GUAYAQUIL
FAMILY.) ON THE OTHER HAND, MRS. POVEDA HAS A REPUTATION AS
AN AUTHORITARIAN AND STRONG-WILLED PERSON AND CAN BE A BIT
BRASSY ON OCCASION, ESPECIALLY IF HELPED BY A FEW DRINKS.
MRS. POVEDA IS OUTSPKENLY PRO-AMERICAN AND FREQUENTLY
VISITS A BROTHER WHO RESIDES IN ILLINOIS. IN RECENT YEARS
THE COUPLE HAS HAD ITS MARITAL PROBLEMS AND I UNDERSTAND
THAT THEY ARE NOT PRESENTLY RESIDING TOGETHER. HOWEVER,
SHE ATTENDS THE MORE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL OCCASIONS WITH HIM.

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MRS. POVEDA SPEAKS NO ENGLISH. OF THE THREE WIVES OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBERS, MRS. POVEDA IS THE MOST OUTGOING.

B. MAGDALENA DURAN (NEE CABEZAS). BORN IN QUITO, 45 YEARS
OLD. A SHY AND SOMEWHAT RESERVED PERSON AT FIRST MEETING, MRS.
DURAN WARMS UP QUICKLY AND IS PLEASANT AND OUTGOING THEREAFTER.
SHE IS THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE THREE COUNCIL WIVES IN CHARITABLE

ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY WITH THE PATRONATO DEL NINO (A DAYCARE CENTER, PLUS ORPHANAGE) WHICH IS A TRADITIONAL CHARITABLE INTEREST OF ECUADOREAN FIRST LADIES. MRS. DURAN IS DEVOTED TO HER FAMILY WHICH INCLUDES TWO SONS (16 AND 8) AND A DAUGHTER (7) AND IS RARELY SEEN AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. SHE IS A VERY DEVOUT CATHOLIC AND SHE AND GUILLERMO DURAN BELONG TO THE MOVIMIENTO FAMILIAR CRISTIANO (CHRISTIAN FAMILY MOVEMENT), AN ACTIVIST CATHOLIC LAY ORGANIZATION. MRS. DURAN IS PROUD OF HER COLLECTION OF PERSIAN RUGS AND HAS BEGUN TO INTEREST HERSELF IN ANTIQUE FRENCH FURNITURE. SHE DOES NOT SMOKE OR DRINK. MRS. DURAN SPEAKS VERY LITTLE ENGLISH.

C. MARIA CECILIA LEORO (NEE VILLACIS). BORN IN QUITO, 34 YEARS OLD. A PHYSICALLY ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, MRS. LEORO APPEARS TO BE SHY AND RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE IN HER PRESENT ROLE IN THE PUBLIC LIMELIGHT. SHE IS FRIENDLY BUT RETIRING. MRS. LEORO SPENT A YEAR WITH HER HUSBAND AT MAXWELL AFB, ALABAMA, AND REPORTEDLY HAD DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING TO THE AMERICAN AMBIENCE. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE YEAR HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "DISASTER" FOR BOTH OF THEM, SHE DOES NOT APPEAR TO HARBOR ANY ILL WILL TOWARDS THE U.S. (UNLIKE HER HUSBAND). SHE IS A REGULAR CHURCH-GOER (CATHOLIC) AND A DEVOUT CANASTA PLAYER. THE LEOROS HAVE ONE DAUGHTER (10). MRS. LEORO SPEAKS LITTLE ENGLISH.

D. TERESA SALVADOR (NEE CRESPO). BORN IN CUENCA AROUND 1930. COMES FROM A VERY PROMINENT, CONSERVATIVE FAMILY. HER FATHER, NOW DECEASED, WAS A FAMOUS ECUADOREAN PHYSICIAN AND POET. SHE HAS 12 BROTHERS AND SISTERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE SECRET

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VERY WELL-KNOWN PROFESSIONALS LIVING IN GUAYAQUIL, QUITO AND CUENCA. MRS. SALVADOR SHARES HER FAMILY'S INTELLECTUAL INTERESTS. SHE WRITES POETRY AND HAS PUBLISHED A FEW POEMS AND STORIES FOR CHILDREN. MRS. SALVADOR IS ALSO VERY DEDICATED AND CLOSE TO HER HUSBAND AND CHILDREN. THERE ARE FIVE CHILDREN AND ONE GRANDCHILD (BORN IN EARLY MAY). MRS. SALVADOR IS A CHARMING PERSON ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS. SHE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.

E. MONIQUE AYALA (NEE WIETS-LABAR). BORN IN BELGIUM, IS IN HER LATE 30'S. MET HER HUSBAND WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT AT LOUVAIN UNIVERSITY IN BELGIUM. MRS. AYALA IS EUPOREAN RATHER THAN ECUADOREAN IN HER OUTLOOK AND INTERESTS. SHE SEEMS TO FIND ECUADOREAN SOCIETY CONFINING AND IS HAPPY WHEN SHE CAN GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER FOREIGNERS WHOSE INTERESTS ARE LIKELY TO BE BROADER. THEN SHE IS ANIMATED AND FRIENDLY. SHE IS AN ARDENT FAN OF SAUL BELLOW, WHOM SHE READS IN ENGLISH. MRS. AYALA SPEAKS FRENCH AND ENGLISH, IN ADDITION TO SPANISH, AND PERHAPS OTHER LANGUAGES AS WELL.

BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. SCHUMAKER.

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